

Hot Tips

Good info for the new ham, and old stuff to refresh your memory



Taking your first steps in ham radio

Congratulations!

You've taken the time and effort to study, and celebrated when you passed the exam. Your reward for all of that work is a six-character call sign issued to you by the FCC. So, what are the first steps you should take, now that you're *legal*?

Get a radio and an antenna

Start out simple, like with a [Baofeng UV-82](#) or [Retevis RT85](#). But make sure you get a good antenna, like the [Signal Stick](#). If you plan to transmit from your basement a lot, get a mag-mount antenna, like the [Tram 1185](#), and a [pig-tail](#) for your little radio.

Make a contact

Tune your radio to 146.760- MHz (no tone) and say, ***Hello, this is KI7ABC. Would anybody like to talk to a new ham?*** Then, talk to another, and another, to get used to how it's done, and the habits and the jargon. Accept the advice of others.

Join a local net

Every Thursday night at 7:00 pm, tune to 146.780- MHz (100.0 Hz tone) for the **UVARC New Ham Net**. Once you've gotten your feet wet and have made a few on-air contacts, every Wednesday night at 7:00 pm, tune to 146.760- MHz (no tone) for the **76ers Net**.

Become a club member

Get online and start by visiting uvarc.club/join and sign up to be a member (dues-free) of the *Utah Valley Amateur Radio Club*. Then, join with the UVARC Facebook® group page at facebook.com/groups/uvarc and answer the questions. Belonging to a club enables you to find fast answers to your questions, and may-

be help to do things, like program your radio or put up an antenna. And get involved! UVARC is non-profit and non-dues, so we depend on help from volunteers just like you.

Check in to your area net

No matter where you live, you likely have an **area net**. An area is a geographical boundary defined by a city, that closely follows a religious boundary, such as an LDS stake or Catholic diocese or Jewish synagogue. Chances are, a local religious or city group has established a weekly net for your area, and your participation is welcome, whether you belong to any or none of the religious groups in your area. Try and locate your own area by visiting noji.com/nets and looking it up. If your area isn't listed, they might not have announced it yet, as of this publication.

Volunteer for service

In Utah County, become a member of **UCARES** (*Utah County Amateur Radio Emergency Service*) and learn how to get trained and involved. When there's a small emergency, there are usually plenty of police and fire and EMS folks who can handle it. But if there's a widespread incident (think earthquake, chemical spill, flood, or even terrorist attack), there simply won't be enough professionals to go around. And one critical component that will be missing is communication. UCARES can provide you with the training you need, to know how to help out in a time like that.

Most of all, have fun!

Enjoy your little radio. Play around with it. If you're into emergency / family preparedness, playing with a radio might not be your first choice of hobbies, but those who are most familiar with their equipment during a crisis will be of greatest help with communication.